

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 02753 251730Z

62

ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9725

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 2753

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, IT

SUBJECT: PARA-STATE STRIKE PROVOKES LABOR DISPUTE

REF: ROME'S 2485

1. A POLEMIC EXCHANGE HAS TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN CGIL SECRETARY GENERAL LAMA AND CISL SECRETARY GENERAL STORTI, ON THE ONE HAND, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PARA-STATE WORKERS, ON THE OTHER. THE PARA-STATE EMPLOYEES HAD ENGAGED IN A THREE DAY NATIONAL STRIKE ON FEBRUARY 19-21. LAMA CRITICIZED THIS ACTION AS BEING TOO LONG, AND DEMANDING TOO MUCH. THIS PROMPTED CISL NATIONAL SECRETARY MARINI, WHO COMES FROM THE PARA-STATE SECTOR, TO DENOUNCE LAMA FOR HIS "CAPER "

IN SEEKING TO PRESENT THE CGIL AND HIMSELF AS "THE MAJOR GUARANTORS" OF THE NATION'S WELLBEING. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE STRIKE DECISION HAD BEEN JOINTLY TAKEN WITH THE CGIL'S SCHEDA, AND "IF THIS IS THE KIND OF DEMOCRACY LAMA BELIEVES IN, WE REFUTE IT."

2. THE NEXT DAY, ON FEBRUARY 24, PARA-STATE REPRESENTATIVES INTERRUPTED A PRESS CONFERENCE DURING WHICH LAMA, STORTI AND UIL CHIEF VANNI WERE EXPLAINING THE SCOPE AND AIMS OF THE PUBLIC SER-
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PAGE 02 ROME 02753 251730Z

VICE STRIKE TO BE HELD FEBRUARY 26. THE FEDERATION CGIL-CISL-UIL (CCU) WAS CRITICIZED FOR ITS LACK OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE PARA-STATE EMPLOYEES. LAMA REITERATED HIS CRITICISMS, AND WAS STRONGLY JOINED BY STORTI WHO SAID STRIKES WHICH CRIPPLE PUBLIC WELFARE CANNOT BE ENDORSED.

3. COMMENT: AS INDICATED IN ROME'S 2733, UIL CHIEF VANNI IS COUNTING ON MARINI TO JOIN IN THE FORMATION OF A NEW LABOR CONFEDERATION. THIS EPISODE MAY BE A LINK IN THE CHAIN OF PREPARATORY ACTS BY MARINI TO MAKE THAT MOVE, AND MAY HELP TO BRING THE PARA-STATE UNIONS ALONG. VOLPE

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